

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
----- 089160

O 021433Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 603

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2794

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT ALSO PASS SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS EG  
SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON US-EGYPT MILITARY  
RELATIONSHIP

REF: STATE 050355 TOSEC 060048

1. MET WITH FAHMY THIS AFTERNOON TO TELL HIM WE HAVE  
BEGUN CONSULTING KEY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ABOUT  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIMITED ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP  
WITH EGYPT. DEPENDING ON RECEPTION ON THE HILL,  
WE WOULD ENVISAGE BEING IN TOUCH WITH GOE IN DUE  
COURSE RE SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING  
THEY MAY WISH TO BUY. ALLUDING TO HIS EARLIER QUERY  
RE C-130'S, I TOLD HIM WE HAVE GOE INTEREST THEREIN  
IN MIND AND HOPE GO AHEAD WITH TRANSACTION WHEN  
CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED FAR ENOUGH  
AND SATISFACTORILY ENOUGH. I STRESSED THAT WE ARE  
PRESENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF RELATIVELY LIMITED ARMS  
SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH RESPECT TO AMOUNTS AND  
TYPES OF WEAPONS. WE NEVERTHELESS SEE IT AS  
BROADENING OUR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND AN IMPORTANT  
INDICATION OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN SADAT.

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2. I THEN DETAILED FOR HIM LINE WE ARE TAKING IN

OUR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND LISTED THE FIVE BROAD CATEGORIES OF ARMS AS WE SEE THEM. IN DOING SO, I POINTED OUT THAT, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS, WE WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC SALES IN FIRST THREE CATEGORIES. THIS WOULD INCLUDE C-130'S AND SEVERAL PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR PASSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ITEMS. AT SOME LATER POINT, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER MORE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT DEPENDING UPON CONGRESSIONAL REACTION. I ASKED THAT HE ADVISE THE PRESIDENT OF THE ABOVE.

3. FAHMY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND SAID HE ASSUMED THE LONG AWAITED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION HAD BEEN SIGNED. SADAT HAD SOMEHOW RECEIVED WORD OF THIS ON HIS JUST CONCLUDED TOUR (PURHAPS FROM GHORBAL?). HE WONDERED IF USING FMS PROCEDURES, RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, AND THUS HAVING TO SUBMIT SALES FORMALLY TO CONGRESS UNDER NELSON/BINGHAM AMENDMENT, WILL NOT UNHELPFULLY COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR US. COULD NOT SOME SIMPLER WAY BE FOUND? I TOLD HIM THAT IF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES ARE TO AVOID FUTURE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONGRESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED ARMS SALES RELATIONSHIP OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD AND FOLLOW PRESCRIBED LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS. HE DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER.

4. WHILE HE WAS PLEASED THAT C-130'S ARE ENVISAGED IN THIS INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROACH, HE EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT F-5'S AND TOW'S ARE NOT. HE NOTED THE LATTER TWO ARE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS AND THAT THE NUMBERS DISCUSSED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH VARIOUS CODELS WERE MODEST. THEY COULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GOE MAY STILL EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO BUY THESE FROM US. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT NEITHER C-130'S NOR TRAINING WILL HELP THE PRESIDENT A GREAT DEAL WITH THE MILITARY, BUT THAT F-5'S AND TOW'S WOULD DO SO. I RECALLED I HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN OUR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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SAYING THAT WE MIGHT AT SOME LATER POINT WANT TO CONSIDER SOME MORE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. AS HE WOULD APPRECIATE, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON CONGRESSIONAL REACTION.

5. FAHMY UNDERTOOK TO GET WORD OF THIS TO SADAT ASAP.

EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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NNN

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